

GLAD HE KILLED SLAYER OF FATHER, YOUTH DECLARES

A red-eyed, quaking youth to-day told Inspector Joseph A. Faurot of the

Detective Bureau how he made a Sicilian vow of vengeance at the bedside of his dying father last April and fulfilled the oath yesterday by shooting and killing Charlie Comparotto, an alleged Black Hand leader, in First avenue, between One Hundred and Eighty and One Hundred and Ninety streets.

"They tell me Charlie is dead," said the youth, who is Matthew Amato, eighteen years old, of No. 184 East Eighty-eighth street. "I am glad. I would do it again—yes, ten thousand times would I do it, for I

know the spirit of my father is near me, and it says: 'Matthew, you did right.'"

"Didn't I kneel at my father's bed when he was shot four times and was dying, and didn't I make him tell me it was Tattore (the Sicilian name for Charlie) Comparotto who shot him? And didn't I raise my right hand and say I would 'get' Comparotto? I am not ashamed. I am proud."

Faurot, after hearing Matthew's story, sent him before Coroner Roridan, who held him without bail on a charge of murder.

AVENGED HIS FATHER, HE SAYS; SHOT SLAYER IN STREET.



MATTHEW AMATO.

Running through the tale Matthew related to the head of the Detective Bureau is a skein of "Black Hand" plots, death vows and the struggles of a young Sicilian-American to put aside the traditions of his native country by refusing to repay murder with murder. For Matthew was educated in a New York public school, although born in Sicily, and in that school he learned things which were antagonistic to vendettas and the like.

So, though he made the "vow of death," he wavered in it twice through the workings of his better nature. But he gave in yesterday when he saw Comparotto driving along First avenue, near One Hundred and Eighty street, in a buggy. Another man was in the vehicle with him. The youth was looking at them, according to his story, when Comparotto fired at him. Then, he says, he drew his own

weapon and fired and Comparotto fell out of the buggy and his companion jumped to the street and ran away. Matthew tried to escape, but Policemen Cox and Becan caught him.

"I'll tell you how it is," the young man said to Faurot. "Then you can understand I'm not a regular murderer. I am the second of five children, the oldest being my brother Joseph, who is twenty-three; the next youngest to me is Mary, who is seventeen, and then two little boys."

"When I was 24 years old my parents came here from Prizzi, near Palermo. You see, they didn't believe in the Black Hand or that sort of business. They wanted to be regular Americans, so when Joe and I got big enough we were sent to the Public School at Eighty-eighth street and Second avenue, and then when I was fifteen I went to work."

"Everything went fine with us till last spring, when Comparotto and his gang tried to get \$1,000 from my mother's brother-in-law, Francesco Costa, of No. 242 East Seventy-fifth street. He told my father, and my father says 'Don't give it,' and he didn't. Then Comparotto heard of that, and on the fourth of last April, when my father was near Costa's home, Comparotto shot him four times."

"I could see the old man was going to die, but, y' understand, he wouldn't tell me who it was killed him. He said in Italian, 'My dear son, wait till I get up; then we'll manage this thing.'"

"Well, he lived fifteen days, and on the fifteenth I knelt down and raised my right hand and said: 'Pop, you tell me who it is and I'll do what I'm supposed to do.'"

"I'll tell you, Matthew," he says. "I see I am going. It was Tattore Comparotto shot me." Then I swore with my right hand raised that I'd kill him. That's the way the Sicilians swear. When they get real mad they put the knuckle of a finger in their mouths and bite it, but that's to remind them of the oath."

"So when I swore with my right hand raised at the bedside of my dying father I went outside, and soon they told me he was dead. And then I hit my knuckle and said I would kill Charlie some day."

"In Sicily the oldest son is supposed to avenge the death of a relative, but my brother Joe was working, y' see, and so I thought it ought to be me, because I didn't have nothing much to do and Joe was looking after the folks."

"Well, I went to Norfolk, Va., and

there I bought a pistol and I came back to New York, and the longer it kept going along the less I wanted to kill Charlie, because in school here the teacher had told us it wasn't right to take a human life, and I sort of knew she was right."

"Two weeks ago I saw him on a car at Second avenue and One Hundred and First street. I could have got him then, but I kind of stopped. It didn't seem right. Two days ago I took a walk and saw him again, but I wouldn't shoot him. Something held me back."

"Yesterday on First avenue I heard some one whistle and I saw Charlie in a buggy and he asked me what I was doing, and then he all of a sudden

drew a pistol and shot at me, and I fired back and killed him."

"The feeling came on me all of a sudden that my father was telling me to shoot, and that's why I did it. And now I'm glad of it."

Faurot said he believed all of Mat. theu's story except the statement that Comparotto fired first.

Out of Work at 73, Tries to Die. George Hubbard, seventy-five, a plasterer living at No. 202 West Fifty-ninth street, was found unconscious in bed to-day with gas flowing from an open window and the windows of his room closed. He was hurried to the Flower Hospital and held there, charged with having attempted suicide. Mrs. Anna Johnson, his landlady, says that Hubbard has been out of work for some time.

JOHN D. FIGHTS TAX IN COURT

Opposes \$311,000,000 Valuation on His Property in Ohio. CLEVELAND, Nov. 12.—Attorneys for John D. Rockefeller to-day appeared before the District Board of Complaints in the first step of Rockefeller's fight against a valuation of \$311,000,000 placed on his personal property by Cuyahoga County tax commissioners. The commissioners held that the oil king established legal residence here and is liable for taxation. When the commissioners sought to serve notice last May, Rockefeller left for Tarrytown, N. Y., and has not since returned here.

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\$18.00 Grey Mixtures Now \$10

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\$25.00 Tartan Plaid Balmacaans Now \$15
\$25.00 Overplaid Balmacaans Now \$15
\$25.00 Scotch Mixture Balmacaans Now \$15
\$25.00 Glen Urquhart Balmacaans Now \$15
\$25.00 Black Kersey Overcoats Now \$15
\$25.00 Blue Chinchilla Overcoats Now \$15
\$25.00 Grey Chinchilla Overcoats Now \$15
\$25.00 Grey Kersey Overcoats Now \$15
\$25.00 Brown Chinchilla Coats Now \$15
\$25.00 Oxford Chinchilla Coats Now \$15

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\$25.00 Tartan Plaid Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Smart Overplaid Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Russian Stripe Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Roman Stripe Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Glen Urquhart Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Black Pencil Stripes Now \$15
\$25.00 Blue Pencil Stripes Now \$15
\$25.00 Blue Serge Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Black Thibet Suits Now \$15
\$25.00 Heather Mixture Suits Now \$15
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